

NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1884.

VACATION DAYS ENDED.

OVER 500 CHILDREN COME HOME SAFELY.

RETURN OF A LARGE PARTY FROM ALLEGANY COUNTY—GRATITUDE OF THE PARENTS.

In front of the Erie ferry-house, at the foot of Chambers-st, yesterday morning, was a scene that is fast becoming familiar to travelers on the railways leading to this city. Nearly 550 beneficiaries of THE TRIBUNE Fresh-Air Fund were returning to their city homes after spending a happy fortnight and the green hills of Allegany County. The children attracted no little attention as they came over on the ferry-boat from Jersey City, where they had been met by the Rev. Willard Parsons and a few of the missionaries who had sent them to the country. On this side of the river there all were on the street, east holding their precious bundles and telling of their joyous days since they left New York.

"What is my boy?" said an anxious mother, as the little regiment filed past her and the fond one whom her hopes centred was not seen. Before Mr. Parsons could glance over the numerous lists to see why the lad had not returned, a little girl answered the woman's query by telling her that: "One boy got drowned in the country."

Jumping to a conclusion without asking where the accident occurred, the excited mother once concluded that her son was dead and was about to make a scene, when Mr. Parsons found that the boy was not only alive but had given such satisfaction in the country that the farmer who had entertained him had invited him to remain another fortnight. The letters informing the mother of this change had not yet reached her. Further inquiry of the girl who had been so free to impart information showed that she knew nothing of the accident that she had reported. C. B. Fairchild, who had charge of the party on the journey to and from the country, accounted for every detail of the event. About forty children in the party were away for two weeks, others for a month, while a few will be adopted as soon as the necessary legal steps can be taken.

"That is a sample of the way rumors about the work get circulated," said Mr. Parsons, as the mother went away partially satisfied and glad that her boy could have his vacation extended.

"When you find that a child tells these stories what do you do?" asked a mark opposite the child's name.

"I send a note to the child next year."

"And that note—"

"That no false stories will be started by that child next year."

The children came home on a special train of ten cars that left Cuban 5 p.m. on Wednesday. The usual leave-taking was witnessed and one who had been absent imagined that the kind-hearted ones who ate the station were party to many of the little ones' promises. Promises of frequent letters and another visit next summer kept back the tears from the eyes of mothers and fathers as the train started. The train had started the mutual embraces provided for the travellers were with many expressions showing love and tenderness. Of the kind ones was apparent.

One of the hapless boys in the company was a little episode, one who had been sent to study at Chappaqua, Westchester. He had a bad cold and had been staying at home, but had improved and had just before the train started.

The boy said that he had had a grand time at the camp, but that he had lost his appetite.

The social and other parts of the day were waiting for the train. Those from Belyea, Stitt, and Angelus, Ses, Webster, Andrew, Alfred, Almon, and the like, and Captain Weller, were the other players at which recruits joined the regular company. The party from Scranton had come to town in a special car, which was to be held open for the children's benefit. The seat of the train was the dining-car, and the little ones this summer in Goshen, Coopersburg, and Towaco Counties in this state, and in several Pennsylvania towns, was in charge of the Scranton children.

"The lady I was going to give me," said a wee miss with childish but parlourable pride, "Everything I have on from specie to clothes."

The heavy bags and suitcases had not been less interesting. One of the hapless boys in the company was a little episode, one who had been sent to study at Chappaqua, Westchester. He had a bad cold and had been staying at home, but had improved and had just before the train started.

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